

January 9, 2014

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Boyce, Hsiao, Jacobsen, Johnson, Orpe, and Chairperson Glass.

Absent: Commissioner Donnellan.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, Business Manager Williams, and Deputy Director Cessna.

MOTION: Commissioner Jacobsen moved to grant Commissioner Donnellan an excused absence for the January 9, 2014 Commission meeting. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Orpe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Jacobsen, seconded by Commissioner Hsiao, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the November 14, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Jacobsen seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Donnellan).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

8B. NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

This item was taken out of order.

Deputy Director Cessna provided an update regarding additions to the Noise Abatement Program approved by City Council during the last budget hearings. She reported that funding was approved for a Web Trak system, specific to Torrance Airport, that will allow detection of aircraft making early left turns, noise levels at each monitor,

and allow complaints to be filed online. She noted that the system, currently in final testing stages, would be demonstrated at a February 2014 City Council meeting. She stated that funding was also approved for an infrared camera system that will allow identification of curfew violations on the Airfield. She discussed enforcement procedures and noted that informative letters would be sent to all FBOs and pilots at the Airport. She stated that there have been several requests for more detailed quarterly Noise Abatement Reports and offered to work with the vendor to format an expanded report if the Commission concurred. She noted that more detailed information would list all violations, date and time, monitor numbers, n-numbers, and action take.

In response to Chairperson Glass's inquiry, she explained that if the Tower directs pilots to make early left turns it would not be considered a violation. She added that the Web Trak system does not show n-numbers so staff needs to listen to communication with the Tower before making a determination.

Barry Jay, Brian Avenue, pointed out that in determining violations staff should consider the difference between pressure altitude and actual altitude that can vary by hundreds of feet. He further noted that pilots often decide if they need to make early left turns due to the marine layer and are not necessarily directed to deviate by the Tower.

The Commission directed staff to bring an item forward regarding a more detailed Noise Abatement Report.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7A. ADDITIONAL THREE MONTH REVIEW OF AVIAD BANNER TOW BUSINESS

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided background on the item continued from the October 10, 2013 Commission meeting. He reported that since October 11, 2013 Aviad LLC has flown nine flights and has had no noise or left turn violations. He noted that staff again reached out to neighboring cities and homeowner associations and received no specific complaints. He recommended that the Commission conduct an additional three month review and make a recommendation to City Council for Aviad to continue or discontinue banner tow operations at the Airport.

Wayne Mansfield, President, Aviad, noted that Aviad has received no noise or left turn violations since the last review. He stated that Aviad has generated seven permanent positions and contributes approximately \$100,000 per year to the City. He stressed the importance of local businesses to thrive and read an excerpt from the Los Angeles area Economic Development Corporation. He requested that the Commission allow Aviad to continue banner tow operations without restraint.

Amy Josefek, Camino de las Colinas, stated that banner tow operations are a noisy, unattractive nuisance and urged the Commission to deny renewal of Aviad's permit. She noted that the aircraft fly low over homes, banners are a blight on the neighborhood, and that property values are being degraded.

Barry Jay, representing Torrance Airport Association, stated that the new Web Trak system will be able to monitor and enforce violations and, based on Aviad's performance over the last three months, an additional three month review is not necessary and that they should be able to conduct business under their current permit.

Responding to Chairperson Glass's inquiry, Mr. Mansfield stated that there are up to 10 banner tow operators who fly over the area.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Boyce, Mr. Mansfield explained Aviad's initial violations and remedial steps taken since July 2013 to ensure no further noise or left turn violations.

Commissioner Jacobsen received clarification that Aviad is not exempt from rules and regulations that apply to all aircraft operating at the Airport.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved to recommend that Aviad LLC be allowed to continue banner tow operations at Torrance Airport per their permit approved by City Council. Chairperson Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 5-1 roll call vote (Commissioner Jacobsen voting no, absent Commissioner Donnellan).

8A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Glass noted that the following reports for January 2014 were included in agenda materials: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, January Meeting Room Calendar, Hangar Waiting List, Events Requiring Emergency Response for October and November 2013, and Airfield Operations Status for November 2013.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that there are no hangar vacancies. Referring to Report #2, Ongoing Projects, he announced that on December 10 City Council awarded a contract to Priority Communication for the Airport Security Project, with construction expected from January to May 2014. He stated that City Council also approved funding for Executive Hangar Gutter and Roofing and Executive Hangar Door Replacement as well as \$20,000 for new radios for Operations staff, helicopter dollies, and chairs for the Meeting Room.

In response to Chairperson Glass's inquiry, he stated that new key cards with photographs would need to be issued to tenants.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

9A. Commissioners and staff wished each other a happy new year.

9B. Commissioner Jacobsen stated that he enjoyed the Rose Float Association's Officials Night.

9C. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian stated that the Citywide emergency exercise has been pushed back to mid-February 2014.

9D. Responding to Chairperson Glass's inquiry, he described storage areas being created at the Alternate EOC.

9E. Commissioner Johnson stated that there are no plans to bring the B-17 to the Airport this spring and that Louis Zamperini is turning 97 on January 26.

9F. Commissioner Glass requested an excused absence for the February 13, 2014 Commission meeting.

9G. Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian encouraged Commissioners to attend the Commissioner Recognition Dinner on January 29.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:00 p.m., Commissioner Hsiao moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, February 13, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Jacobsen seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Glass so ordered.

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| Approved as submitted February 13, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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